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Cynthia J. Frei Oct 14 2003  
Cynthia J. Frei Date

Serial No.: 10/025,629 ✓  
Filed: December 26, 2001  
Applicant: S. Steven Carl et al  
Title: COUNTERMEASURE WASHDOWN SYSTEM CLEANING  
Art Unit: 1746  
Examiner: Sharidan Carrillo  
Conf. No.: 4427

Cincinnati, Ohio 45202

October 14, 2003

Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P. O. Box 1450  
Arlington VA 22313-1450

Sir:

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT**

This paper is responsive to the Restriction Requirement mailed September 15, 2003. The following remarks are respectfully submitted.

**REMARKS**

Reconsideration of the restriction requirement set forth in the office action of September 15, 2003 is respectfully requested.

The reason given for the restriction between Group I and Group II is that the inventions are unrelated because the invention of Group II is directed to removal of spray nozzles and replacing them with temporary fittings. Actually, both Groups I and II are directed to a method for chemically cleaning a countermeasure washdown system onboard ships. It is true that the claims are of different scope in cleaning only in that there is a removal in the case of claims 15-26 of spray nozzles and replacing them with temporary fittings during the cleaning.

However, even taking this removal of parts as a subspecies of the method, with reference to class 134, subclass 22.1, and subclass 26, the difference in these subclasses is that more than one agent is used sequentially in subclass 26. Claims 1-26 as drafted do not require the sequential use of agents.

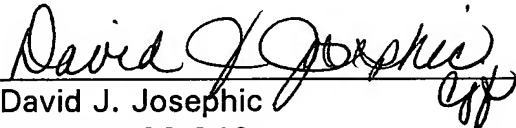
For the reasons set forth above, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the requirement for restriction.

It is also noted that the election/restriction requirement does not require that the applicant elect either Group I or Group II claims. Accordingly, applicants' attorney will take this to mean that there has been an oversight in the office action in this regard. Therefore, in order to be completely responsive,

in the event the restriction requirement is upheld, applicants hereby elect  
Group I.

Respectfully submitted,

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